

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 15-26, and 28-32 are pending. Claims 1-3, 11-12, 16, 23, 26, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 4-10, 13-15, 17-22, 24-25, 27-28, and 30-32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 14 and 27 are cancelled. Claims 11, 15, 26, and 28 are currently amended.

The disclosure is objected to for lacking reference numerals described at page 14 with reference to Figure 9. A proposed drawing amendment to Figure 9 is attached on a separate paper. Reference numerals 92-94 have been added as described at page 14, lines 13-17. No new matter is added.

Claim 13 is objected to for some confusion as to what "said using step" refers to. Claim 13 depends from claim 12 which depends from claim 11. Claim 12 recites "The method of Claim 11, including the intended recipient device receiving the packet and *using error check information from the received packet to determine whether the address field of the received packet is an extended address field* and thereafter decoding the address information from the address field of the received packet." (emphasis added). Claim 12 adds steps of receiving, using, and decoding to claim 11. Claim 13 refers to the step of "using" in claim 12.

Claims 1-3, 11-12, 16, 23, 26, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Subbiah et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,366,961). Claims 1-10 recite in part "A method of controlling communication of a packet of information from a transmitting packet communication device to a recipient packet communication device, the packet having a plurality of fields including *a predetermined address field for carrying address information indicative of an intended recipient of the packet*, comprising: a transmitting packet communication device providing in *a further field of the packet other than the predetermined address field* address information indicative of a recipient packet communication device for which the packet is intended; the transmitting packet communication device *providing in the predetermined address field of the packet first information which indicates that the further field of the packet contains*

the address information." (emphasis added). Referring to Figure 1 of the instant specification, an embodiment of the present invention discloses an active member address field AM_ADDR and a type field TYPE. Referring to Figure 2, the AM_ADDR field includes 3-bit recipient addresses 001-110 corresponding to user numbers 1-6. When the AM_ADDR field is set to 111, however, the TYPE field is used for extended addressing for user numbers 7-14. (page 7, lines 4-16). The AM_ADDR field is *a predetermined address field for carrying address information indicative of an intended recipient of the packet*. The TYPE field is *a further field of the packet other than the predetermined address field address information indicative of a recipient packet communication device for which the packet is intended*. When the AM_ADDR field is set to 111, it is *providing in the predetermined address field of the packet first information which indicates that the further field of the packet contains the address information*.

Examiner has identified element 218 of Figure 2b by Subbiah et al. as "a predetermined field of a MINI-IP header that is used to carry recipient address information." (page 3, paper no. 4). Subbiah et al., however, state that reserved bit 218 is currently undefined, but it may be used, for example, as an indication of a header extension. (col. 6, lines 3-6). Subbiah et al. fail to disclose that element 218 might be used to carry recipient address information as required by claims 1-3. Thus, claims 1-10 are patentable over Subbiah et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Examiner has identified elements 210 and 212 as a further field other than the predetermined address field address indicative of a recipient packet communication device for which the packet is intended. Element 212, however, is a length information field which indicates a number of bytes. (col. 5, lines 66-67). It is irrelevant to address information. Element 210 is a Channel Identification field that is always present in the MINI-IP header. Reserved bit 218, therefore, does not provide "first information which indicates that the further field of the packet contains the address information" as required by claims 1-3. Thus, claims 1-10 are patentable over Subbiah et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claims 16-22 recite in part "A packet communication apparatus for communicating a packet of information to a further packet communication apparatus, the packet having a plurality

of fields including *a predetermined address field for carrying address information indicative of an intended recipient of the packet*, comprising: a packet processor for providing in *a further field of the packet other than the predetermined address field* address information indicative of the further packet communication apparatus, said packet processor further for providing in the predetermined address field of the packet first information which indicates that said further field of the packet contains said address information.” Claims 23-25 recite in part “A packet communication apparatus for receiving a packet of information from a further packet communication apparatus, the packet having a plurality of fields including *a predetermined address field for carrying address information indicative of an intended recipient of the packet*, comprising: a communication interface for receiving the packet via a communication link; and an address decoder coupled to said communication interface for *detecting in said predetermined address field information which indicates that a further field of the packet contains address information from which the intended recipient of the packet can be determined.*” (emphasis added). For all the foregoing reasons, therefore, claims 16-25 are patentable over Subbiah et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

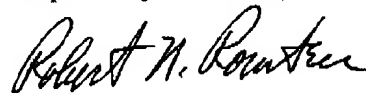
Claims 29-32 recite in part “A packet communication apparatus for receiving a packet of information from a further packet communication apparatus, the packet including a predetermined address field for carrying address information indicative of an intended recipient of the packet, comprising: a communication interface for receiving the packet from a communication link; and *a packet processor coupled to said communication interface for using error check information from the received packet to determine whether the address field of the received packet is an extended length address field.*” (emphasis added). Examiner incorrectly concludes from Figure 4 and column 6, lines 40-45 that MINI-IP headers use checksums to protect the headers and payload from transmission errors. In fact, Subbiah et al. specifically state that the MINI-IP headers do not have header error controls. “The traditional Header Error Controls (HEC) found in many protocols is excluded because MINI-IP relies on higher layer checksum (UDP checksum) to protect the headers and payload from any transmission errors.” (col. 6, lines 41-45). Furthermore, even if the MINI-IP header of Subbiah et al. included Header Error Controls, there is no teaching or suggestion that they might be used “to determine whether

the address field of the received packet is an extended length address field" as required by claim 29. Thus, claims 29-32 are patentable over Subbiah et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claims 14 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 14 has been cancelled. All the limitations of claim 14 have been included in independent claim 11 from which it directly depends. Claim 15 has been amended to depend from claim 11. Claim 27 has been cancelled. All the limitations of claim 27 have been included in independent claim 26 from which it directly depends. Claim 28 has been amended to depend from claim 26. Thus, claims 11-12 and 26 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-13, 15-26, and 28-32. If the Examiner finds any issue that is unresolved, please call applicant's attorney by dialing the telephone number printed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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